

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/620,539

Examiner

Wen-Tai Lin

Applicant(s)

OSTERTAG ET AL.

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 10/31/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-8,10-15,17-20,23-28,30-33,36-42,44-46, 49-54,56-58,61-66,68-70 and 73-75, renumbered as 1-58.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for the examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Richard Soderberg, reg. no. 43352, on January 25, 2008.

2. In the claims:

(i) Please cancel claims 3, 9, 16, 22, 29, 35, 43, 48, 55, 60, 67, 72 and 76-111.

(ii) Please amend claims 1, 14, 27, 40, 52 and 64 to the following:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of mining human capital information for creating a target group, the method comprising:

receiving user input specifying criteria of association with a dynamic target group to be created, by defining one or more attributes of a communication group;

searching, in response to the input, implicit information that is obtained through inference, but that is not directly extracted from prespecified fields, explicitly defined attributes or tagged elements of an information content, and that does not directly state interest, expertise or responsibility of an individual regarding a subject, to determine if information therein matches the defined one or more attributes;

if a match is determined, using the information to identify individuals to be associated with the dynamic target group;

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communicating with the identified individuals using a communication directed to the dynamic target group, wherein the communicating includes sending to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group an information request based on at least one of a survey and a questionnaire, and wherein communicating includes sending to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group at least one of structured communication wherein possible responses to queries are predefined and unstructured communication wherein possible responses to queries are not predefined;

logging at least some of the communications; and
analyzing the logged communications.

14. (Currently amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing machine-readable instructions that, when applied to the machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receive user input specifying criteria of association with a dynamic target group to be created, by defining one or more attributes of a communication group;

search, in response to the input, implicit information that is obtained through inference, but that is not directly extracted from prespecified fields, explicitly defined attributes or tagged elements of an information content, and that does not directly state interest, expertise or responsibility of an individual regarding a subject, to determine if information therein matches the defined one or more attributes;

if a match is determined, use the information to identify individuals to be associated with the dynamic target group;

communicate with the identified individuals using a communication directed to the dynamic target group, wherein the communicate includes send to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group an information request based on at least one of a survey and a questionnaire, and wherein communicate includes use at least one of structured communication wherein possible responses to queries are predefined and unstructured communication wherein possible responses to queries are not predefined;
log at least some of the communications; and

analyze the logged communications.

27. (Currently amended) A system for mining human capital information for creating a target group, the system comprising one or more computers configured to perform operations comprising:

receiving user input specifying criteria of association with a dynamic target group to be created, by defining one or more attributes of a communication group;

searching, in response to the input, implicit information that is obtained through inference, but that is not directly extracted from prespecified fields, explicitly defined attributes or tagged elements of an information content, and that does not directly state interest, expertise or responsibility of an individual regarding a subject, to determine if information therein matches the defined one or more attributes;

if a match is determined, using the information to identify individuals to be associated with the dynamic target group;

communicating with the identified individuals using a communication directed to the dynamic target group, wherein the communicating includes sending to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group an information request based on at least one of a survey and a questionnaire, and wherein communicating includes sending to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group at least one of structured communication wherein possible responses to queries are predefined and unstructured communication wherein possible responses to queries are not predefined;

logging at least some of the communications; and
analyzing the logged communications.

40. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of establishing a target group, the method comprising:

receiving user input specifying criteria of association with a dynamic target group to be created, by defining information associated with one or more attributes for the dynamic target group;

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saving the defined attribute information; ~~and~~

searching implicit information that is obtained through inference, but that is not directly extracted from prespecified fields, explicitly defined attributes or tagged elements of an information content, and that does not directly state interest, expertise or responsibility of an individual regarding a subject, for people having the defined attributes to identify individuals to be associated with the dynamic target group; and

communicating with the identified individuals of the dynamic target group, wherein the communicating includes sending to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group an information request based on at least one of a survey and a questionnaire, and wherein communicating includes sending to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group at least one of structured communication wherein possible responses to queries are predefined and unstructured communication wherein possible responses to queries are not predefined.

52. (Currently amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing machine-readable instructions that, when applied to the machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receive user input specifying criteria of association with a dynamic target group to be created, by defining information associated with one or more attributes for the dynamic target group;

save the defined attribute information; ~~and~~

search implicit information that is obtained through inference, but that is not directly extracted from prespecified fields, explicitly defined attributes or tagged elements of an information content, and that does not directly state interest, expertise or responsibility of an individual regarding a subject, for people having the defined attributes to identify individuals to be associated with the dynamic target group; and

communicate with the identified individuals of the dynamic target group, wherein the communicate includes send to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group an information request based on at least one of a survey and a questionnaire, and wherein communicate includes send to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group at least one

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of structured communication wherein possible responses to queries are predefined and unstructured communication wherein possible responses to queries are not predefined.

64. (Currently amended) A system for establishing a target group, the system comprising one or more computers configured to perform operations comprising:

receiving user input specifying criteria of association with a dynamic target group to be created, by defining information associated with one or more attributes for the dynamic target group;

saving the defined attribute information; ~~and~~

searching implicit information that is obtained through inference, but that is not directly extracted from prespecified fields, explicitly defined attributes or tagged elements of an information content, and that does not directly state interest, expertise or responsibility of an individual regarding a subject, for people having the defined attributes to identify individuals to be associated with the dynamic target group; and

communicating with the identified individuals of the dynamic target group, wherein the communicating includes sending to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group an information request based on at least one of a survey and a questionnaire, and wherein communicating includes sending to the identified individuals of the dynamic target group at least one of structured communication wherein possible responses to queries are predefined and unstructured communication wherein possible responses to queries are not predefined.

3. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

-- ESTABLISHING DYNAMIC COMMUNICATION GROUP BY SEARCHING IMPLICIT INFORMATION THAT IS OBTAINED THROUGH INFERENCE --.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wen-Tai Lin whose telephone number is (571)272-3969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday(8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(571)273-8300 for official communications; and

(571)273-3969 for status inquires draft communication.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wen-Tai Lin

January 31, 2008

Wen-Tai Lin
1/31/08